



October 24, 2006

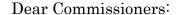
Chairman Kevin Martin



Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate Commissioner Michael Copps Commissioner Robert McDowell Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein Federal Communications Commission The Portals 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554



RE: Support BellSouth / AT&T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74





I am writing you on the behalf of Friends of Children, Youth and Families, Inc. to ask for your quick approval of the merger of AT&T and BellSouth. This merger combines two of America's most respected companies, companies with complementary strengths and a heritage of philanthropic and volunteer support to the African-American community.



African-American individuals and businesses are an important and fast growing segment of Florida's economy. We are increasingly dependent upon advanced broadband technologies to grow our businesses, educate our children and enhance the quality of our lives.



To ensure greater availability of broadband services to the African-American community, Friends of Children, Inc. of Florida strongly encourages prompt approval of the merger of BellSouth and AT&T. The merger promises to bring about *affordable* and *universal* broadband access for all of our citizens, including those in low income and rural

Caring for Children Since 1993

Friends of Children Headquarters 7264 W. Oakland Park Blvd. Lauderhill, FL 33313 Tel: (954) 578-8399 ext. 123 Fax: (954) 572-8231

Friends of Children District Ten Office a 7272 W. Oakland Park Blvd. a Lauderhill, FL 33313 a Tel: (954) 578-8399 Fax: (954) 578-0145

Friends of Children District Two Office **a 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Suite A a Tallahassee, FL 32301 a Tel: (850) 894-3700 Fax:** (850) 894-3702

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areas who need it the most. This will greatly enrich the lives and economic prosperity of all of our citizens.











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I urge the Commission to quickly approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth so that African-American businesses and consumers can soon benefit from the promise of affordable and widely available broadband technology.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Willie Myles

Willie Myles, M.S.Ed. Founder and President



cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary



About Friends of Children, Inc.

Friends of Children, Youth and Families, Inc. is a nationally accredited, faith based organization that has been providing services to underserved and hard to reach populations in throughout the state of Florida for the past 14 years. Presently, we annually serve more than 2,000 troubled children and families in Broward, Gadsden, Leon, Jackson, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties. Each of these targeted areas contains significant populations of children of color who remain underserved in the realms foster care, behavioral health, and family support services.



Using spirituality, cultural competence, professional skills and unconditional care, Friends of children strives to enhance our community by empowering the children and families within it. Our

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mission is to provide culturally competent, spiritually guided, and professionally sound behavioral health, foster care, youth development and family support services to empower our community one child and one family at a time.











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